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ACTION ARA-16

INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	SS-10	CIAE-00	DODE-00
	H-01	IO-15	NSC-01	NSAE-00	SY-06	HA-08	L-03
	PM-09	PA-02	MCT-02	SAL-01	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01
	PRS-01	/089 W					

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R 161651Z FEB 83
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6465

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release () Exclse () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 01028

FOR ARA/SC AND HA/HR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJ: ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO RELEASE POLITICAL DETAINEES

REF: 82 BUENOS AIRES 5650

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA (GOA) RELEASED POLITICAL DETAINEES DURING 1982 IN LARGE GROUPS OF 30, 80, OR 100 AT A TIME. THUS FAR IN 1983, THE GOA'S RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE SMALLER IN NUMBER THAN IN 1982, PARTLY BECAUSE THERE WERE ONLY ABOUT 243 SUCH PRISONERS LEFT IN THE PRISONS AT THE END OF DECEMBER; BUT THE RELEASES DO CONTINUE. THE GOA RELEASED AT LEAST FIVE PEN DETAINEES FROM PRISON IN JANUARY. THOSE FIVE WERE PLACED UNDER "SUPERVISED LIBERTY", SIMILAR TO OUR PAROLE. OF THE FIVE, AT LEAST FOUR RELEASES WERE COURT ORDERED, WHICH INDICATES THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTINUES TO ABIDE BY JUDICIAL BRANCH DECISIONS REGARDING POLITICAL PRISONERS, AS IT DID IN 1982. ALSO, SINCE THE COURTS CONTINUE TO ORDER RELEASES, WE EXPECT TO SEE MORE PRISONERS RELEASED SOON.

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2. IN ADDITION TO THOSE FIVE CASES, SIX OTHER DETAINEES WERE GIVEN COMPLETE FREEDOM IN FEBRUARY. WE BELIEVE THAT

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THE SIX WERE ALREADY OUT OF PRISON UNDER "SUPERVISED LIBERTY," BUT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THAT FOR US TO DATE.

3. PER REQUEST OF ARA/SC, WE NOW AUTOMATICALLY SEND A COPY OF EACH NEW LIST OF RELEASES TO THE DESK. WE ALSO CHECK THE NAMES ON THE LISTS AGAINST OUR FILES TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN PARTICULAR CASES. IN SUCH CASES WE INFORM THE INTERESTED CONGRESSMAN OF THE RELEASE VIA AN "H PASS" TELEGRAM. THERE WAS NO CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST ON RECORD AT THE EMBASSY REGARDING THE FIVE DETAINEES RELEASED SO FAR THIS YEAR.
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